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LOVE LYRICS

CONSTANCE SUTCLIFFE





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LOVE LYRICS
AND SNATCHES TO SET TO MUSIC

BY
CONSTANCE SUTCLIFFE

LOVE LYRICS

AND SNATCHES TO SET TO MUSIC

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A FAREWELL

From the arms that would enfold thee,
From the eyes that would behold thee,
Thou art fading, thou art fleeting,
Caught away by time and space.
May God take thee, may God guard thee,
In His keeping may He hold thee,
From all ill may He withhold thee,
Till thine eyes meet mine again.

CONSTANCE SUTCLIFFE

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A few of these poems have already appeared in print, and are re-published by the kind permission of the Editors of *Pearson's Magazine*, *The Windsor*, *Lady's Realm*, etc. Among the Lyrics are some which have been sung by celebrated singers in every part of the world, to the musical setting of Frances Allitsen, Florence Aylward, George Aspinall, J. M. Capel, Gerard Cobb, Henry Castleman, Noel Johnson, Herman Löhr, Pelissier, Ellen Wright, and others.

C. S.

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IF THOU WERT BLIND

IF thou wert blind,
I would give my sight,
Lest thy darkness should set me far from thee.

If thou wert dumb,
I would still my voice,
That my silence might draw me nearer thee.

If thou wert scorned,
I would kill my pride,
And, humbled and outcast, would live with thee.

If thou wert old,
I would yield my youth,
That thy years might sever me not from thee.

If thou wert dead,
I would give my life,
In the hope—the hope—I might pass to thee.

LOVE LYRICS

MY PART IN THEE

I, WITH bowed head, before thee lowly bending ;
I, with my heart all yielded up to thee,
In that new life upon us softly stealing,
Thy slave I'll be.

I, with mailed arm upraised for thy defending ;
I, a safe fort, a guardian sure for thee,
Strong to ward off the world when cold and slighting,
Thy shield I'll be.

I, to light up thy hearth when old age chilling
Draws near to quench bright joy and warmth in thee ;
I, to give all the glow craved by thy being,
Thy sun I'll be.

I, to mark down a path for thy sweet treading ;
I, to shape out the course for me and thee ;
I, to lead—rule—with tender word commanding,
Thy lord I'll be.

LOVE LYRICS

OUTLINES

A LONELY boat on a silent sea,
An idle oar and a helm left free,
A darkened vault over you and me,
And the world away.

None else on earth, save alone we two,
Barriers gone and a dream come true,
Glorious light shed on me and you,
And the world forgot.

A sad-eyed star on guard in the sky,
A cloven wave and a boat laid by,
A severed path, an unechoed sigh,
And the world come back.

MINE, ONLY MINE

YOUR path to the east, my way to the west,
Wide apart as the poles, so I held it best.
Has the charm worked right, have you stood the test?
Have I passed from your heart, become as the rest?

LOVE LYRICS

What folly to ask when I know full well,
That your life you would give, could you but be
mine,
That potent as death is the old sweet spell,
That worlds could not sever your soul from mine.
That I being I, and you being you,
It is idle to ask if you still be true,
From the day you met me, you knew—you knew,
That oblivion did not exist for you.

Your life from my life, your heart from my heart,
As the west to the east, as the poles apart,
You stood, that the distance might peace impart,
And I, for I loved you, I bade you depart.
But to go was not to be once more free,
From that moment of promise, or ecstasy,
From the time you guessed all that I could be,
You were mine, only mine, for eternity.
And I being I, and you being you,
It is idle to ask if you still be true,
From the day you met me, you knew—you knew
That oblivion did not exist for you.

LOVE LYRICS

A NOONDAY DREAM

DREAMING a noonday dream,
While my languid oar
Hangs o'er deep waters that sleep in the sun,
And my thoughts lag back to days that are done,
And a face looks up through the waves.

Dreaming a noonday dream,
While the steep grey cliffs
Climb further and further to meet the sun,
And my heart cries out for days that are done,
And sad eyes gaze out from the heights.

Dreaming a noonday dream,
While the broad blue vault
Grows dim, though lit up by a summer's sun,
And my soul grows faint for days that are done,
And dear arms droop down from above.

LOVE LYRICS

AWAY WITH THE WILLOW

AWAY with the willow, the wormwood and rue,
Let roses alone spring up in my path,
Bright roses, fair roses, though they be but few,
And brief be the time of their blowing.

Away with dark frowning, with strife and with pain,
Let laughter alone stream on through my course,
Glad laughter, gay laughter, life's joyous refrain,
Though swift fly the hour of its ringing.

Away with the cloud-burst, dull fog and chill rain,
Let sunshine alone look down on my way,
Warm sunshine, dear sunshine, ah ! bring it again,
Though short be the hour of its passing.

A GRAVE IN THE DESERT

A LONELY grave in a sultry land,
A dead weight or sand on a soldier's breast,
A gentle curve on the desert's face,
To mark out the place of his last long rest.

No voice to tell if the hours were long,
When he lay and looked face to face on death,

LOVE LYRICS

None near to say whose the last loved name,
What the whispered words of his dying breath.

No gleam of the Homeland's gentle light
But an orient sunset's angry glare,
A red globe dipped in the desert's grey,
A hawk hanging low in the heavy air.

A pleasant hearth in an English home,
An eager glance at an opening door,
A line to read, a long sobbing breath,
And a heart that knows there is hope no more.

A fair world marred by hatred and strife,
Man's cruel touch on the purple sod,
A soul which asked why these things should be,
Gone to solve its doubts at the throne of God.

LOVE LYRICS

A TRAGEDY

My friend cried, "Why so sad, oh my comrade,
And for what is this sombre brow?"

Then I said: "In my life there's a Liar,
But I knew it not until now.

He was dearer to me than the dearest,
He was there ever by my side;
But although I had guessed it so little,
If he opened his lips, he lied.

Now I know not what's fact and what's seeming,
What tale of the past I may hold,
As e'er having shown me that which had been,
As having truth's tablets unrolled.

And we walk with a river between us,
Where the old false words fall and rise,
And the most tragic part of the story
Is that he knows I know he lies.

LOVE LYRICS

I LITTLE DREAMED, MY LOVE

I LITTLE dreamed, my Love, you had such need of me,
Queen of a realm I deemed you once,
Too proud, too high,
To send your regal glances down,
To reckon if I might smile or frown,
But now I know.

I little thought, my Sweet, you gave your dreams to me,
Saint of my shrine I held you once,
Too cold, too calm,
To let your light illumine my dark,
My weal, my woe, to heed or mark,
But now I know.

I little guessed, my Own, you had such love for me,
Moon of my sky, I held you once,
Too chaste, too chill,
To fret for me your course serene,
To recognise my homage mean,
But now I know.

LOVE LYRICS

LOVE'S MAGIC

A HEAD was bent o'er mine,
And sudden light lit up the room,
 All dim before ;
And straight there rose around,
A new strange world, all wonderful,
With words to hear and things to do
 The old world had not known.

A hand was laid on mine,
And sudden glow shot through my frame,
 All cold before,
And with the touch awoke
That which had slept and now rushed forth,
With radiant hopes and daring dreams,
 The old days could not hold.

Dear lips were pressed to mine,
And sudden flame burnt in my soul,
 All calm before,
And from that flame there sprung,
A new strange life whose days were rich
With secrets vague, mysterious,
 The coming time would solve.

LOVE LYRICS

A REVERIE

I SOMETIMES think, dear love,
That had I lost my sight,
I yet should see thee plain as now :
 Thy features one by one would rise,
 Take form and hue before mine eyes,
Till they, though hid from out my sight,
Would clearly stand before as now.

I sometimes think, dear love,
That e'en if hearing went,
I yet should grasp thy words as now :
 Thine accents one by one would fall,
 With their old power to enthrall,
And breaking through the fast-sealed door,
Would to mine ear come clear as now.

I sometimes think, dear love,
That if my life were gone,
I yet might know thee e'en as now :
 Though that true glance might not meet mine,
 Nor might my cold white hands seek thine,
Yet something surely would be left
To tell me thou wert here as now.

LOVE LYRICS

BE HAPPY, DEAR ONE

BE happy, dear one, at my side,
Close your wide eyes, look not so far,
Leave your question of to-morrow,
Cease your beckoning of sorrow,
Why from solace still dissent you,
Can the present not content you,
Now it has linked your life to mine?

Lie, Sweet, at rest upon my breast,
'Tis pain to me to see you thus,
Wond'ring ever what new sorrow,
Holds for you and me to-morrow.
Even as my arms enfold you,
Let me from all care withhold you,
And thus make glad your life and mine.

Stay tranquil, loved one, next my heart,
And ask not if our Now shall last,
Torture is it thus to borrow
For each day some coming sorrow.
Why should vague distrust deject you,
'Trust my arm, it shall protect you,
And shall make safe your life and mine.

LOVE LYRICS

SHOW ME THE WAY

SHOW me the surest road to thy heart,
Lest I lose strength and stumble on my way,
Ah, Sweet, the lures are strong, the marsh light gleams,
It dazzles, it confounds, brings baleful dreams;
And who shall close his eyes and know it not,
Or having known it, who hath e'er forgot?
Then help me, Sweet,
And let me seize my bliss while yet I may.

Show me the swiftest route to thy arms,
Lest I lose time and err upon the way,
Ah, Sweet, the mirage falls, the glammers spread,
And evil seems the case where'er I tread,
Allurements rise before me ever new,
How shall I see and know the false from true?
Then aid me, Sweet,
And let me gain my joy while yet I may.

Tell me the straightest path to thy love,
Lest I lose heart and wander by the way,
Ah, Sweet, the pits are deep and laid with guile,
With many potent bait and subtle wile.
How shall I reach my goal unmarked, unstained,
If I be not by thy strong love restrained?
Then, to me, Sweet,
And let me Heaven earn while yet I may.

LOVE LYRICS

WAKE NOT THE PAST

NAY, lay your hand on mine no more
With that close touch which tells of time long past,
I dare not risk to wake again
The old sweet joys, the old sweet pain.
For you, perhaps, 'tis safe, 'tis well,
For me, alas! how can I tell?
It might recall a dear dead scene,
When that was not which might have been.

Nay, turn your eyes on me no more,
With that deep gaze which once had power to thrill,
I may not lightly call again
The old sweet dreams we dreamed in vain.
And you? Can your heart control
While the pale past spreads out its scroll,
And calmly dwell on that lost scene,
When that was not which might have been.

Nay, linger by my side no more,
With those fond ways which once brought happiness;
How can you seek to weave again
The old sweet links, the old sweet chain . . .
. . . Too late, alas! . . . Ah, was it well
To thus bring back the fated scene
When that was not which might have been.

LOVE LYRICS

LOVE'S MISGIVINGS

BELOVÈD, wait awhile,
My hours lag on so slow when you are gone,
Lost is the light and glow from all,
And music tires and day-dreams pall
 When you are gone.

Belovèd, go not yet,
For daylight fades to dusk when you turn hence,
The song-birds droop within their glades,
Their lays lose tune, their gladness fades,
 When you turn hence.

Belovèd, leave me not,
For sombre visions come when you're away,
Of setting star and falling sun,
Of love forgot, its prize unwon,
 And you afar.

LOVE LYRICS

THE PRINCESS'S POOR

(A Souvenir of '97)

"THE poor," she said, "the poor ; what shall be
done for them,
Now all the land is filled with joy,
And gladness rules without alloy,
While care is not, and grief's forgot,
The very poor, our poor, what shall we do for
them ? "

Then straight she set her tables forth, with goodly
fare,
And every one, she bade them come,
The sick, the blind, the halt, the dumb
—As once before in days of yore—
And called them, one and all, to sit and eat with her.

They bade her pause and choose her people, one by
one,
For some, they said, had done amiss,
This one not worthy, and not this.
But that sweet voice bade all rejoice,
And only said again, "I want them every one."

LOVE LYRICS

Then through the land one cry arose, one heartfelt
prayer,
From young and old, from small and great,
Of high in place, of mean estate,
And bent each head while each one said :
“As she has been to these, may God be good to her.”

OURSELVES

(From the Entrance-hall of the Women's Institute)

WHEN the toil of the hard day is over,
When night's shadows are falling fast,
We will all of us meet here together,
To speak of the work that is past.
'Ere the trials of next day fall on us,
Or cares rise with the morning sun,
In the hour that we spend here together,
We'll take heart for the race to be run.

We'll each bear our own trouble as may be,
Repine not, nor murmur, nor fret,
E'en through failure should come for the many,
Success for but few of our set.
And those few shall feel triumph is dearer,
Since it's shared by us every one,

LOVE LYRICS

Since each of us met here together,
Is glad that such triumph was won.

Glory's glittering crowns are not many,
To few may fame's fair prizes fall,
But we feel as we stand here together,
There's hope and endeavour for all.
Though the struggle may be long and bitter,
It need neither crush us nor blight,
If we loyally stand all together,
Each helping the rest in the fight.

When the dark of the last day looms on us,
Though failed the sweet promise of life,
We'll still gladly recall how together
We stood side by side in the strife.

LOVE LYRICS

A MADRIGAL

ALL the thousand graceful blossoms, waving high or
nestling low,
Say "We heard it—ours your secret—known to all
the flowers that blow,
All you murmured, all she whispered, and much more,
we know, we know,
Nothing might be hidden from us as you wandered to
and fro."

And the Evening Primrose softly said, "You deemed
yourselves alone,
Saw the branches interlacing, felt their shadows round
you thrown,
Knew no trait'rous breeze was present to bear on one
tender tone,
But you never marked the Primrose, Twilight's Queen,
its realms her own."

There the coy Clematis shrinking 'neath her foliage out
of sight,
Clad in dainty robes of samite, royal purple, virgin
white—

LOVE LYRICS

Whispers, "We too saw your lips meet, marked your
eyes beam with love's light,
Though you deemed that none divined it, we all heard
and saw last night."

Here the Lily of the Valley, ringing out a fairy peal,
Said: "Though closely we're enfolded, still we can
both know and feel,
And we last night heard low whispers plighting troth
for woe or weal,
While by curling petals backwards, saw what moon-
light did reveal."

Last, the Passion Flower burning said, "I heard e'en
more than they,
For she caught my blossoms to her, next her heart she
let me lay.
And when you left her, ling'ring fondly, clinging close,
I heard her say,
'This the symbol, this the emblem of what cannot pass
away.'"

LOVE LYRICS

LEGEND OF THE BUTTERFLIES *

Souls of new-born babies, so they call you,
Soft-winged spirits poised above our earth,
In your transit, may no ill befall you,
Wending Heavenwards straightway from your birth.
Fair butterflies, sweet butterflies,
Who fly we know not where, when day is done,
Who pass, we know not how, at set of sun.

Souls of little children, well they named you,
Hov'ring o'er a world you have not known,
One brief instant, ere the seraphs claimed you,
Ere you sought a kingdom all your own.
Fair butterflies, sweet butterflies,
Who fly, we know not where, when day is done,
Who pass, we know not how, at set of sun.

Souls of mortal infants, let us hold you,
Lighting on our sphere for one short span ;
Breathe one prayer for us when His arms fold you,
Angel heralds sent by God to man.
Fair butterflies, sweet butterflies,
Who fly, we know not where, when day is done,
Who pass, we know not how, at set of sun.

* An old legend says butterflies are the souls of little children who die on the day of their birth.

LOVE LYRICS

SONG OF THE GIPSY

'Tis hey for the reckless dance
Of the gipsy lad on the boundless plain,
His girl in his arms with her hair unbound,
That flicks at his face as he whirls her round ;
He leaps in the air, he's a gladsome wight,
With his mates around for to fend or fight,
And ten thousand lamps lit to give him light.
It's a rollicking time that he has each night,
With no care from the dark to the dawning.

'Tis hey for the wild free life,
Of the gipsy lad on the moonlit plain,
With the town unknown and the world afar,
The heath at his foot and his lamp a star,
And there's none to restrain him, say him nay,
He knows no to-morrow, all is to-day ;
A life of fire, a long roundelay
Of love and of dance, of feast and of fray,
With no care from the night to the morning.

'Tis hey for the sparkling cup
Of the twilight feast on the wind-swept plain,
For with life's rich wine 'tis filled to the brim,
And the law of each day its passing whim.

LOVE LYRICS

He shouts and he sings. He is full of glee,
With his madcap maid pinned down to his knee,
Where she'll snatch her kisses as quick as he,
For she's every whit as bold and as free,
With no care from the light to the gloaming.

TEACH ME THE CHARM

TEACH me the touch that may stay in thy hand,
Since never again must it rest in mine ;
Teach me the song that may sleep in thine ear,
Since no more may it listen to chaunt of mine.

Teach me the word that may dwell in thy heart,
Since it must beat henceforth apart from mine ;
Teach me the kiss that may live on thy lips,
Since now for the last time they cling to mine.

Teach me the spell that shall still hold thee true,
Though severed through life be thy life and mine ;
Nay, tell me a way I may die in thine arms,
So that death will but keep thee wholly mine.

LOVE LYRICS

A RESPONSE

WATCH for thee? Aye, though night draw nigh,
And strained and worn be my wearied eyes,
While sadness clouds my tired heart
And hushed the songs that win no replies.

Wait for thee? Aye, though years roll by,
Till scamed with grey be this dusky hair,
All pliant grace from form be gone,
And marred the face that you once found fair.

Long for thee? Aye, though others near
Offer true love in exchange for mine,
Love which perchance were dearly prized
Had not my being been merged in thine.

Live for thee? Aye, e'en though through life
Thy days and mine be now passed apart,
Hand touch not hand, glance meet not glance,
And only near be sad heart to heart.

Die for thee? Aye, nor count it loss
To leave a world I had found so fair,
Had Heaven been placed on this side too,
Had things been here as they may be there.

LOVE LYRICS

THE DAYS GONE BY

A STORM-CLOUD swept across my soul, by bitter north
winds driven,
Its sacred places are laid low, roof gone and fences riven,
And days and nights alike are dark, for nought seems
them to sever,
While joy is vanished, gladness past, and hope seems
gone for ever.

The darkness grows, the winds are cold, around me
they are sobbing,
The bygone tale which though long told, still sets my
wild heart throbbing;
With sun eclipsed, with heaven dark, with mist around
me clinging,
Horizon gone and earth left blank, with death knell
ever ringing.

No star of light before me shines, no rainbow hope is
giving,
And as a shadow glide my days, as dead among the
living;
And yet all is not wholly dark, though the night cloud
hangs so nigh,
For one ray glistens through the gloom, 'tis the thought
of days gone by.

LOVE LYRICS

A BYGONE DREAM

Now at last the dream is over, dream that we indulged
so long ;

Hushed its music, stilled its echoes, dead the cadence
of its song.

Other music, other echoes, may, as time goes, greet our
ear ;

But no future chords can call up hopes and thoughts
and dreams so dear.

And our life will want in colour, time have lost its
gladsome light,

While mist and cloud and blinding rain dim the days
that were so bright.

See they gather, they come nearer, falling surely, closing
round ;

Glide between us, hide you from me, blot out e'en your
voice's sound.

Nay, one moment ! Strike the mist down, let in the
last gleam of light.

It will soon pass, soon will leave us, soon our evening
end in night.

LOVE LYRICS

Yet once more your arms shall clasp me, as the cloud
falls, sun rays wane ;
Once more you shall love, caress me, once more we
will dream again.

LOVE'S DEFIANCE

No kiss have I won from your pale proud lips,
No soft caress from your eyes have I known,
Nor yet have I prest your head to my breast,
Not once has my heart throbbed against your own.
But to-night you will stretch forth your arms to
the void,
To-night to the silence you'll breathe my name,
And the kiss you retained, the embrace you dis-
dained,
Shall rise in the dark my sway to proclaim.

Did you think your stormy heart spoke no word,
Such passion as yours agreed to disguise,
That lips could conceal what heart would reveal,
That mute as your voice were your troubled eyes ?
Did you think I believed mine the torment alone,
When you in your pride had bidden me go,
And that I, only I, had a fate to defy,
That you on your side had nought to forego ?

LOVE LYRICS

My vengeance I'll find in the years to come,
My triumph will dawn with your quick regret
For the wish you checked and the love you wrecked,
Since though you refused, you will not forget.
And to-night you will cry to this hour to return,
To-night in the stillness you'll speak my name,
And the kiss you retained, the embrace you dis-
dained,
Shall rise in the dark my sway to proclaim.

TWO PATHS

Two paths bestrewn with thorns,
Two hearts which knew not rest—
Sunshine and light obscured by cloud,
With wild winds wailing deep and loud—
And lives by care opprest.

Two paths that changed their course,
That near each other wound,
That touched, that crossed, that swerved aside,
Now near, now far as ebb and tide,
Till each its other found.

LOVE LYRICS

Two paths bestrewn with flowers,
Two lives lit up with light,
 Where cloud and mist have rolled away,
 Where storm has melted in bright day,
And changed to dawn is night.

Two paths, now two no more,
Two heart-beats merged in one,
 Where each in each alone now reigns—
 No care, no fear, no doubt remains—
And perfect rest is won.

IN POPPYLAND

TEN days we were in Poppyland,
That sunlit realm with coral strand—
Gay Poppyland ! bright Poppyland !
 Where red-lipped flowers kiss,
 And none find aught amiss,
In Poppyland ! bright Poppyland !

'Tis good to be in Poppyland,
With heart next heart and hand in hand—
Fair Poppyland ! sweet Poppyland !

LOVE LYRICS

There mortals too may kiss,
And snatch a fleeting bliss,
In Poppyland ! sweet Poppyland !

Would we were back in Poppyland,
Where glowing flows life's golden sand
Dear Poppyland ! our Poppyland !

But past are those bright days,
And closed the red-starred ways,
Which led us once to Poppyland.

A BALLAD

THERE'S a steep, steep hill before us, dear,
And beyond it a bleak, bleak plain ;
And we'll travel for many a mile, dear,
Ere we come to our home again.

There's a fair, fair land behind us, dear,
With many a flowery mead,
Where one could stay on as one would, dear,
And wander or wait at one's need.

There's a cold, cold wind around us, dear,
And weary and worn are our feet ;

LOVE LYRICS

While yesterday's skies were so fair, dear,
Its breezes so soft and so sweet.

But now your hand lies in my own, dear,
And before we two walked apart ;
And lacking one thing, I lacked all, dear,
My sweet place in your loyal heart.

There's a hard, hard life before us, dear,
Long struggle for me and for you ;
But we will not fret nor repine, dear,
For our love is both deep and true.

Turn your true, true eyes to my own, dear,
And you never shall see me quail ;
With your strong, strong clasp round my waist, dear,
There's no fear I should faint nor fail.

LOVE LYRICS

MY LIFE AND THINE

ONE, from that dear past day,
When first thy life found mine :
One, with all else forgot,
 My life and thine.

One, from that glad bright morn,
When first thy path crossed mine :
One, in their onward course,
 My path and thine.

One, from that lovelit eve,
When first thy heart met mine :
One then, one now, one hence,
 My heart and thine.

One, from that silent hour,
When first thy soul saw mine :
One, for all time to come,
 My soul and thine.

LOVE LYRICS

RAINDROP AND DEW

To the Raindrop said the Dew : "Stranger, say, how
came you here ?

My bower's not the place for you ; no claim have
you to come near."

Said the Raindrop to the Dew : "How I came I
cannot say ;

But, if all the same to you, having come, I'd like to
stay."

To the Raindrop said the Dew : "My home is a
lily-bell.

No room is there here for two ; if you left, it would
be well."

Said the Raindrop to the Dew : "If it must be, will I go,
Shelter elsewhere will I sue. Cruel, fair, to treat me
so !"

To the Raindrop said the Dew : "Gallant stranger,
why so fast ?

Wait one moment, one or two, since this call must
be your last."

Said the Raindrop to the Dew : "Gladly with you
wait I will ;

But, while waiting, I must woo. Try me, dear, I
mean no ill."

LOVE LYRICS

To the Raindrop said the Dew : " Why, you are just
like a man—

Give one ell, and you take two. Further off, sir !
. . . if you can."

Said the Raindrop to the Dew : " Nay, a little closer to ;
Cling to me as I to you. Thus you'll own there's
room for two !"

AS THE TIDE SWINGS UP TO THE SHORE

As the tide swings up to the shore,
As the swallow strikes through the air,
As the ice film steals o'er the lake's fair face,
As mist takes the earth in her soft embrace,
So I take thee, my love, to my heart.

As the birch tree bends in the breeze,
As the lily sways on her stem,
As the longing streams to the rivers run,
As tulips open their hearts to the sun,
So I turn, O my love, to thy side.

As the storm-wind drives through the trees,
As the billows rush o'er the rocks,
As the mad flames over the prairie hiss,
To take and to hold it in one wild kiss,
So I make thee, my love, all my own.

LOVE LYRICS

THE COMING OF LOVE

A DEEP strange thrill in your wondrous voice,
A raptured look in your deep dark eyes,
A startled glance, which asked what had chanced,
A radiant glow that sought no disguise.
Then a great silence fell, and you and I
Knew that we loved, and knew but that alone.

A sudden flush on your earnest brow,
A ling'ring touch of your tender hand,
A throb that passed through your burning frame,
As low words led you to understand.
Then a great silence fell, and you and I
Knew that we loved, knew that and knew no more.

A gleam of gold in the darkened air,
A sullen cloud that to light gives place,
A heaven hung with great wreaths of flame,
A surging world falling back a pace.
Then a sweet stillness came, and you and I
Found that we loved, and felt that all was well.

LOVE LYRICS

A VOICE IN THE TWILIGHT

THE tone of a voice in the twilight,
With a word that was stilled e'er it fell,
A look that was lost in its passing,
With a peace that foretold all was well.
It was so little, but so much to me.

The touch of a hand in the silence,
And the hush of a world while we kissed,
The sense that all nature was with us,
With a sigh for the years that we'd missed.
It was but little, but how much for me !

The dream of a life in a moment,
That passed swift to a far distant sphere,
The strain to effect its remaining,
And the blank that it left in its rear.
It was not much, but meant the world to me.

The gleam of a soul 'neath an eyelid,
And a face in the dusk coming near,
The sway of a form stealing to me,
With a trust that has cast out all fear.
Not much, perhaps, but it meant all to me.

LOVE LYRICS

PLANT A THORN IN MY LIFE

PLANT a thorn in my life, it will grow to a rose,
And its blossoms will climb to my knee, my breast,
They will twine round my brow and lie there at rest,
And thus bind me and hold me as you do now.

Place a gulf in my way, it will turn to a grove,
Where the orange and lime will flourish and blow,
And will perfume my days with fragrance and glow,
Till they charm and enchant me as you do now.

Set a stone in my path, it will turn to a gem,
From which radiance and light will evermore stream,
Till it makes of my days one glorious dream,
That will hold and entrance me as you do now.

Hang a cloud in my sky, it will change to a star,
Which will deepen and broaden till all my night
Is made lustrous and brilliant, one long delight,
And will give me the happiness you do now.

LOVE LYRICS

OUT OF THE DUSK

Out of the dusk of the night,
You came to seek me and find,
 To lead me to realms unknown before,
 Where I might life's fairest fields explore,
Out of the dusk of the night.

Out of the mists of the past,
You came to love me and woo,
 To bear me to radiant plains of joy,
 Of fullest content without alloy,
Out of the mists of the night.

Out of the trough of the sea,
You came to soothe me and lull,
 To still my trouble upon your breast,
 To bring me to shores of endless rest
Out of the trough of the sea.

Out of the dark of the storm,
You came to save me and bless,
 To change life's discord to strains of peace,
 From sorrow's long ban, to give release,
Out of the dark of the storm.

LOVE LYRICS

THERE WAS A TIME

THERE was a time, so annals tell,
When life went on and you were not,
Moons waxed and waned, suns rose and set
On dull tame days when you were not.

There came a time, a rich ripe time,
When life flew fast, for you were there,
And golden light lit up each day,
Each love-filled hour, for you were there.

There's now a time, cold chilling time,
While life lags on and you are gone ;
Mist creeps around, nor sun nor storm,
But deadened days, for you are gone.

There'll be a time, a radiant time,
When this will end and you'll return,
What import then if storm or sun
Shall rule the day, so you return ?

What matter when, so it but come,
That waited day, for you and me,
When but one boon we'll beg of Time,
That he forget both you and me ?

LOVE LYRICS

FOR OTHERS ONLY

LOVE lays and chants for others,
Never a one for me,
Songs of a passionate longing,
Poems of joys untold,
All these have I sung for others,
Where is there one for me ?

Love-tale and page for others,
Never a one for me,
Constancies fully rewarded,
Waiting which found an end.
All these did I weave for others,
Where is there one for me ?

Love-wounds that found their curing,
Never a one for me,
Hurts that have lit on their healing,
Clouds that swift passed away,
All these have I found for others,
Who shall find one for me ?

LOVE LYRICS

IS THAT LIGHT A CALL TO ME?

Hid in the depths of your slumbrous eyes,
Hid where no searching may find it,
Veiled e'en from yourself, a dear dream lies,
Is that dream a dream of me?

Lost 'neath the lids of your raptured eyes,
Lost where no seeking may see it,
Concealed from yourself, a sweet thought lies,
Is that thought a thought of me?

Dawning with pain in your troubled eyes,
Rising ere you can suppress it,
All strange to yourself, a new wish lies,
Is that wish a wish for me?

Deep in the bed of your glowing eyes,
Banning attempt to disguise it,
Lit with sudden force, a strong light lies,
Is that light a call to me?

LOVE LYRICS

IN THY DEAR EYES

No light is as the light in thy dear eyes,
No glow as that beneath thine eyelid's shade,
Which through thy lashes fitfully doth gleam,
Longing to pass, but shrinking back dismayed.

Nay, look on me, sweet one, look,
Turn not the light of thy dear eyes away,
But let their beams shine in mine own,
Thus, darling, thus, so may it be alway.

No music hath the charm of thy low voice,
No chant hath power to linger in mine ear,
As thy soft tones which softly rise and fall,
And in each cadence make themselves more dear.

Then speak to me, sweet one, speak,
Let not thy soft tones hush and die away,
But let their music make me glad,
Thus, darling, thus, so may it be alway.

No glow is as the glow of thy red lips,
No noontide's rays could thus pierce to my heart,
To thrust aside all dread of chill beyond,
And make my life and thine a thing apart.

Then kiss me long, sweet one, kiss,
Do not but touch, then swiftly turn away,
Nay, let thy lips rest on mine own,
Thus, darling, thus, would it were thus alway.

LOVE LYRICS

TO AN OLD LOVE

AH, why did you come,
When I had forgot,
And had taken another's fair hand in my own?
And why should the gleam
Of your eyes come now,
When a new love I'd sought in my life to enthrone?
. . . What care I henceforth for the gold of her hair?
What care I henceforth for the blue of her eye?
What care I, alas! for the love in her heart,
For the pledge that we'd taken, she and I,
Now you have passed by, your lamp in your hand?

And why should you hold
That lamp to the past,
If it were not my present peace to deride?
'Twas cruel to go,
But more to return,
To recall what had gone and was now set aside.
. . . What care I henceforth for the gold of her hair?
What care I henceforth for the blue of her eye?
What care I, alas! for the love in her heart,
For the pledge that we'd taken, she and I,
Now you have passed by, your lamp in your hand?

LOVE LYRICS

COME TO ME, DARLING, COME

COME to me, darling, come ;
I'll string thy days on threads of gold,
Each shall a fairer tale unfold,
Till life's full chaplet be complete.
Thus shall it be, believe me, sweet.
Nor shalt thou know
If one day come,
Another go,
No dark, no night,
Hide this from that,
Unclouded, bright,
Each perfect, in itself complete,
All shall be one, believe me, sweet.

Come to me, darling, come,
I'll gem thine hours with stars of light,
Each than the last shall be more bright,
Till life's long day be all complete,
For thee, for me, believe me, sweet.
Thou shalt not guess
When youth to prime,
With strain and stress,
Its form shall change,
Nor yet when prime
To age shall range,
All time shall be one day complete,
For thee, for me, now kiss me, sweet.

Snatches to Set to Music

MY COMING KING

I ASK but one thing of my own Coming King,
His power to make me adore him.
What matter to me if he stoop from the heights
On me in his glory descending?
What matter to me if he climb from the vale
In lowliness sweet to me bending?
The mode of his coming I leave to my King,
So can he but make me adore him.

I ask but one thing of my own Coming King,
His power to make me adore him.
What matter to me if he come in the dusk,
Or borne by the wings of the morning?
What matter to me if his loving come slow,
Or spring forth full grown at its dawning?
The form of his homage I leave to my King,
So can he but make me adore him.

LOVE LYRICS

LOVE IMPATIENT

WITH devotion that brooks no subduing,
With heart's fire that needs no renewing,
With an ardour that waits for no wooing,
I seek thee.

With assurance that scorns at restraining,
With elation to no disguise deigning,
With a fervour that mocks at refraining,
I take thee.

With a passion resentful of waiting,
With caresses that ask for their mating,
With a rapture that knows no abating,
I keep thee.

LOVE LYRICS

CUPID LAUGHS

THE winter's day dawns dull and cold,
Hid 'neath a pall the sunlight's gold,
The poor worn earth feels grey and old,
And Cupid sleeps.

The springtide's morn is passing fair,
A love-bird's song rings through the air,
And youth and hope and joy stand there,
And Cupid wakes.

Sweet summer comes, the year's bright queen,
She decks her world in gold and green,
While fairies flit across the scene,
And Cupid laughs.

LOVE LYRICS

SONG OF THE BUTTERFLIES

FAIRY blossoms floating past,
Here and there, in such glee,
From the stems that chained you fast
Down to earth, now set free.

Caught away, while falls the rain,
Where, I ask, are you now?
With the sunshine back again,
In a trice, who knows how!

Petals pertly flying free,
Watch them fall, see them rise,
Gay defiance hurl at me,
Then they seek other skies.

Swaying in the sun-bathed air,
Up and down, to and fro,
Passing on I know not where,
Here you come, there you go.

LOVE LYRICS

THE FIREFLY'S SONG

I SPARKLE, I dart here and there,
My lantern illumines the air,
A kiss to my cousin the star,
I cast, as he winks from afar,
For a tricky little elf am I.

The Will-o'-the-Wisp do I shun,
Of commerce with him have I none,
No life in foul marshes for me,
I wing through the air bold and free.
For a cheery, cheery sprite am I.

All archly the glow-worm I greet,
My rival who cannot compete,
Though he too has his tiny sun,
With me in my frolic and fun.
For a giddy, giddy wight am I.

Now farewell to my friend the star,
To the glow-worm who creeps afar,
To the Will-o'-the-Wisp, good-bye,
Swift away to the night I fly,
For a merry, merry elf am I.

LOVE LYRICS

MAIDEN MINE

LIFT your sweet patient eyes up to me, maiden mine,
Thus their beams will send down a light on our
way,
A glow that shall lead us from grim night to day,
That will steer us straight home to our port, maiden
mine.

Yield your dear gentle heart unto me, maiden mine,
For though timid and faint, when beating alone,
It ceases to tremble when close to my own,
And will keep us both up to the end, maiden mine.

Hold your soft little hand out to me, maiden mine,
For though slender and frail, it will be my stay,
While I strike out a path through life's troubled
fray,
And will lead us at last to our rest, maiden mine.

LOVE LYRICS

I HEAR THY STEP

I HEAR thy step in the midnight rain,
Falling gently, moving slowly,
Passing to leave me alone again.

I find thy voice in the summer wind,
Sounding softly, whisp'ring sweetly,
Dying, its dear echoes left behind.

I see thine eyes in the sunbeam's track,
Gleaming brightly, fading quickly,
Speeding me first their sweet glances back.

I feel thy touch in the morning dew,
Resting lightly, ling'ring softly,
Coming to bring me thy promise true.

And sun and rain and breeze from the sea,
All come kindly, all wait fondly,
Dear tokens sent from my love to me.

LOVE LYRICS

THERE IS MAGIC IN YOUR VOICE

THERE is magic in your voice, love,
There is witchcraft in your glance,
And it makes the old world new, love,
All my days one golden trance.

There is sunshine on your path, love,
Where you tread the roses blow,
And the birds break forth in song, love,
As they watch you come and go.

Sweet repose is on your brow, love,
It is calm as summer's sea,
There is peace whene'er you pass, love,
And there's fullest rest for me.

LOVE LYRICS

NATURE AT PLAY

THE green stars nod to the gold,
And the white stars laugh to the red,
And the moon looks on, sweet-souled chaperone,
With love for her children at play.

The dewdrops flirt with the rain,
The sunbeams coquet with the sea,
And the great broad sky sees nothing awry,
But bids them rejoice while they may.

The South wind smiles to the West,
The North wind romps with the East,
And the wide-stretched plains and the long green
 lanes
All gleeful the wild sports survey.

The wavelets frisk on the shore,
The billows career o'er the deep,
And old ocean's abyss takes nothing amiss,
But joins in and cheers on the fray.

LOVE LYRICS

SHINE INTO MY LIFE

SHINE into my life, O Sun,
Disperse the mist, burn up the rain,
Bring noontide's warmth and glow again,
And light up all my life, O Sun.

Steal into my heart, O Love,
Drive forth all pain, chase out all grief,
From ill and sorrow give relief,
And stay within my breast, O Love.

Climb into my sleep, O Dream,
Full rest can not content my brain,
Place joy within my grasp again,
And bide within my sleep, O Dream.

Sink into my soul, O Peace,
Too long has trouble ruled my day,
Too long has life been one long fray,
Then sink into my soul, O Peace.

LOVE LYRICS

WHEN LIFE WAS YOUNG

WHEN life was young, her pathway strewn
With hope's fair gems, care all unknown,
Moving gladly, I went to thee
In joy and love at one with thee.

When storm-clouds broke, gone our bright day,
When hope with youth fled fast away,
Clinging closely, I was with thee,
In grief's dark hour yet nearer thee.

When round thy heart fold death's cold hands,
Turned to grey dust life's golden sands,
Drooping o'er thee, I'll be near thee,
In life, in death, still, still with thee.

LOVE LYRICS

THE GOLD OF JUNE

THE gold of June lay at my feet,
And your hand lay in mine,
Ah, sweet, how sweet that golden day
When care was far and grief away,
And your hand lay in mine ;
While the gloom of December was nothing to me,
For I knew but the light of the summer.

The sun of June shone in my eyes,
And your eyes shone in mine,
Ah, Sweet, how sweet that sunny day,
When sorrow fled and joy held sway,
And your eyes shone in mine ;
While the dark of December was nothing to me,
For I knew but the sun of the summer.

The glow of June fell on my brow,
And your heart beat on mine,
Ah, Sweet, how sweet that burning day,
When Love was lord and had his way,
And your heart beat on mine ;
While the chill of December was nothing to us,
Since we knew but the glow of the summer.

LOVE LYRICS

BE MINE THE PART

To weed thy years of every day of sorrow,
To guide each passing sunbeam to thy heart,
To plant thy path with blossoms ever blooming,
Be mine the part.

To be at hand when thy dark hour assails thee,
Thrusting aside its shroud with subtle art,
To stand between when friends grow chill and chiding,
Be mine the part.

To hold grim death's fell messenger far from thee,
To turn aside his keen and icy dart,
To keep thy life all restful to its ending,
Be mine the part.

LOVE LYRICS

WHERE MABEL WAITS

THE woodlands haste to greet her,
Their children rise to meet her,
The stern grey trees all love her,
And stretch great arms above her ;
While the crocuses spring,
And the lily-bells ring,
Where Mabel moves.

The hedgerows stoop to shade her,
An archway fair they've made her,
Their creepers coil about her,
They would not be without her,
And the violets crouch,
And the primroses couch
Where Mabel walks.

The meadows spread before her
The flow'rets that adore her,
The glades form bowers round her,
With tender care surround her ;
And the wild roses twine
With the perfumed woodbine
Where Mabel waits.

LOVE LYRICS

MY DARLING, FARE THEE WELL

FARE, fare thee well, my dearest,
Since for all time I leave thee,
Since mine no more it is to tend and serve thee,
And now an arm that is not mine must shield thee,
Fare, fare thee well.

Fare, fare thee well, my loved one,
And may all good attend thee,
May gentle spirits waft kind wings above thee,
And keep all harm, all evil, far off from thee,
Fare, fare thee well.

Fare, fare thee well, my darling,
For now another claims thee,
And one poor right alone my fate has left me,
The right to whisper while you're passing from me,
Fare, fare thee well.

LOVE LYRICS

YE WINDS OF HEAVEN

YE winds of heaven, now my lady's left me,
Do thou my part, and guard her safe and sure ;
Since of her care a hard fate hath bereft me,
Ward off all ill and waft her all things pure.

East wind, do thou make sweet the airs around her,
Hold every evil vapour far apart ;
North wind, see thou that false friends ne'er surround her,
Let none come near but those of loyal heart.

South wind, tell her at all times how I miss her,
And compass her with love and tender care,
Thou West wind in her sleep for me shalt kiss her,
Bear her bright dreams and thoughts of all things fair.

And winds of heaven, as ye sweep about her,
Whisper to her whene'er ye fall and rise,
How sunless are the days I pass without her,
Then, veering swiftly, bring me her replies.

LOVE LYRICS

HEART'S LONGING

I LONG for the old gnarled olives
Of a glade in the radiant south,
With a glimpse beyond of a gleaming strand,
Where the sunbeams sleep on the sun-kissed sand,
And a boat is moored ready for me.

And I long for the time to come
When these dull dark hours shall die,
When the future and past shall glide away,
Leaving one time only—a bright to-day,
A sweet day that is shining for me.

I long with an endless longing
For all that the south means for me,
I long for its passionate glow and fire,
And I long, I long, with a deep desire,
For a heart that is longing for me.

LOVE LYRICS

ME, ONLY ME

I ASK, Shall you love me, Me, only Me,
Both here and hereafter, Me, only Me.
You ask, Shall you hold me, You, only You,
Embrace and enfold me, You, only You.

I ask, Am I worthy, I, even I,
Of all that you promise, I, even I,
Think what you yield for me, You, even You,
Cede and resign for me, You, even You.

You? Can you doubt it, dear, You, peerless You,
Satisfy, solace me, who else but you?
We'll let the world go then, We, even We,
We've all we want of it, We, even We.

LOVE LYRICS

MY DAME OF THE SKIES

SHE helps me to read you,
She helps me to know you,
To learn all your wishes as writ in your eyes ;
She helps me to tend you,
She helps me to take you,
My mentor and mistress, my Dame of the Skies.

She helps me to guide you,
She helps me to steer you,
To drive from your brow its troubled surprise ;
She helps me to have you,
She helps me to hold you,
My pilot so skilful, my Dame of the Skies.

She helps me to seek you,
She helps me to find you,
To gain you and trace you in any disguise,
She helps me to woo you,
She helps me to win you,
My light and my leader, my Dame of the Skies.

LOVE LYRICS

WATCH THEM TO THE WEDDING GO

WATCH them as they wooing go,
Daring man and willing maid,
In a way we all well know,
Those demur and these persuade.
Hey ! Hi ! for the wooing,
That quick leads to the wedding,
With the merry, merry bells
That peal out o'er fields and fells,
Giving promise of a gladsome future.

Watch them as they walking go,
Young Hodge linked to Nancy fair ;
Freely kisses they bestow,
Each on each a goodly share.
Hey ! Hi ! for the walking,
That straight leads to the wedding,
With the merry, merry bells
That peal out o'er fields and fells,
Giving promise of a gladsome future.

LOVE LYRICS

Watch them to the wedding go,

Cheery couples, two and three,

Marching gaily in a row—

Soon it may be you and me.

Hey! Hi! for the wedding,

The bright and blithesome wedding,

With the merry, merry bells

That peal out o'er fields and fells,

Giving promise of a gladsome future.

LOVE LYRICS

A DAY OF GOLD

A DAY of Gold, a golden day,
With colour all aglow,
A time when we two con love's lore,
And hand in hand his ways explore,
A dazzling day that sees no morrow.

A Day of Gold, a lustrous day,
Made in no mortal mould,
A time of triumph, hope and joy,
Of full content without alloy,
A day of days that asks no morrow.

A Day of Gold, a radiant day,
That straight from love's realm fell,
With warmth and light and life replete,
A time all in itself complete,
A day too glad to dread its morrow.

LOVE LYRICS

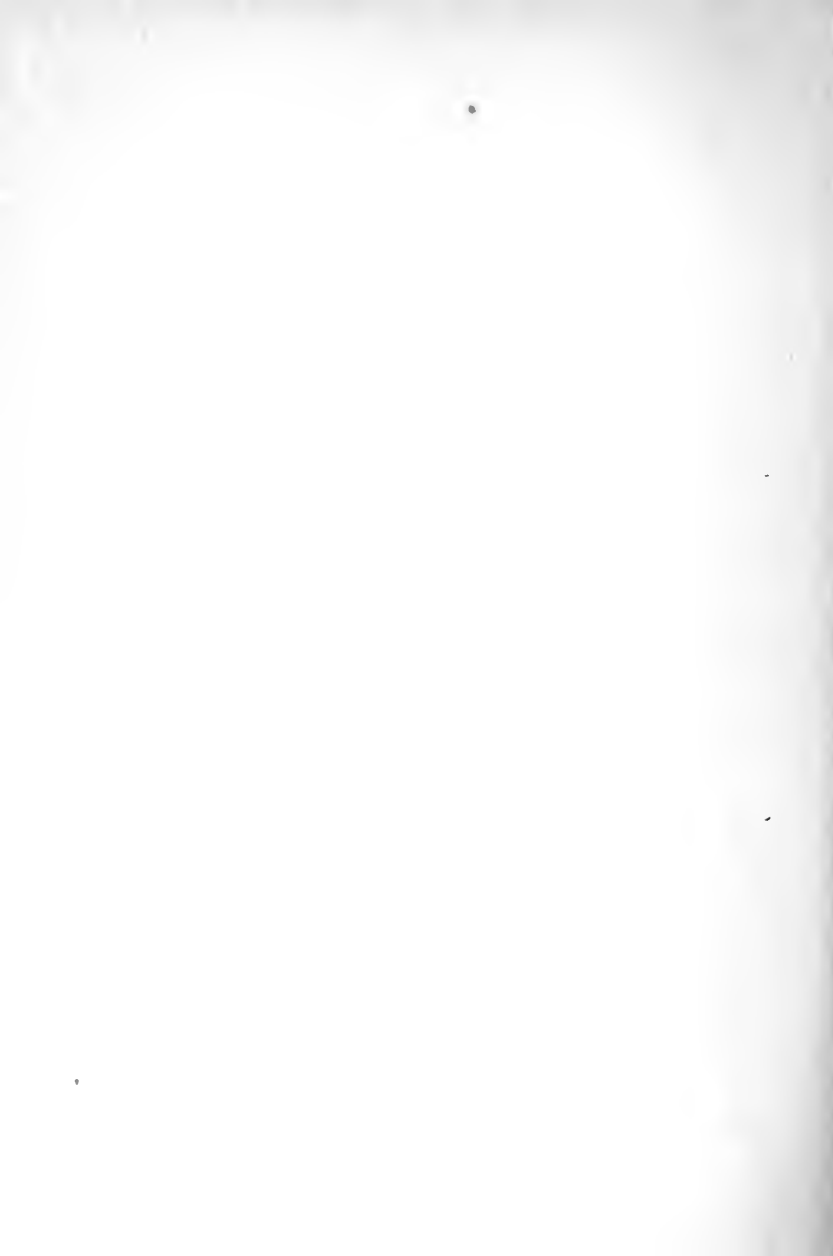
IF I FAIL THEE

ILL assail me if I fail thee,
Shouldst thou call to me in vain,
Should mine eyes mistake their lodestar,
Or my homage find its wane.

Dole attend me if I send thee,
E'en one hour's cark or care,
Should dark trouble's brood o'ertake thee,
Grief draw near and I not there.

Woe await me if I treat thee
E'er less fondly hence than now,
Should my touch bring tribulation,
Strike the sunshine from thy brow.

Blight o'erwhelm me, sorrow helm me,
If to stranger-shrines my glance
E'er should wander, thine forgetting,
Be my days one long mischance.



MISGIVING

I ONCE thought that dull life held no poem for me,
That each page, as the last, was all blotted and
 scarred,
That Romance's fair elves had winged elsewhere their
 way,
That for me were the gates of their fairyland barred.
 Then a small soft hand stole into my own,
 While an angel voice in sweet promise said
 For me should a radiant morning dawn,
 By me was life's poem still all unread.

I once thought that a time of pale prose had set in,
That the rainbow-spanned years to so many assigned,
With their glorious dawns, were for others alone,
While for me, clouded hours, without break, were
 designed.
 Then a faint note trembled upon the air,
 And a sunbeam's shaft struck athwart my sight,
 And straightway life's shadows were swept aside,
 While prose's pale face passed on out of sight.

LOVE LYRICS

I once thought that the pain hid away in my eyes
Was fixed there for all time, that which others behold
The iris-hued vistas, the dreamland desired,
Would for me never more its bright colours unfold.

Then a magic touch lit upon my brow,
And straightway all pain was a thing unknown,
While the bolts from Fairyland's gates were drawn,
And Romance's realm was made all my own.

CHANCE AND CHANGE

STAY, then, my love, stay on, and live again the
days of old.

New times, new scenes, they please me not ; they
are not as the old.

For change brings chance,

And chance makes change.

And chance and change alike are evil things ;

From us they bear our past on jealous wings.

Stay on, stay on, for new things ne'er can be what
old have been :

No suns will beam as bright as those we have
already seen.

LOVE LYRICS

The past has smiles,

The future frowns.

Why trust the promise of uncertain fate?

Why court regrets that may come all too late?

No flowers for us could bloom and glow on any
future strand,

Like the dear leaves, these dead leaves, though they
be within my hand.

Culled in past days

On flowery ways,

Whose vales and slopes you would thrust from your
sight,

Shrouding them in oblivion's dark night.

You yield, my love ; you own that happiness has
nought of new ;

And you and I, to our dear past, will faithful be
and true.

No more to change,

No more to range,

Our future and our past shall be but one,
Unchanging and unchanged till life is done.

Let others on, but we will live again the days of
old,

New times, new scenes, are not for us ; we will live
in the old.

LOVE LYRICS

PARTING

THEN are they past, those by-gone years, when we
two loved so long and well?

Are their suns set to rise no more; does this night
sound their dying knell?

The greetings we exchanged so oft, will they be never
uttered more?

Must they live on in thought alone, while memory
only tells them o'er?

Those days when we sat long alone, hand held in
hand in loving clasp,

Can nothing keep them; must they go, and glide
relentless from our grasp?

And will no future bring them back; does this hour
cut their golden thread?

Must our fair past become a dream, a dream of night,
with morning dead?

And must my life remain a blank while other love
fills up thine own?

Stay! no protest, it must be thus, thou wert not made
to live alone.

New scenes will pass before thine eyes, new friends
with new love make thee blest,

And 'midst the many there'll be one who may prove
dearer than the rest.

LOVE LYRICS

If, with the tenderness thou lov'st, she should soft
words of friendship breathe,

Would thou to her in coming days my right to
sympathise bequeathe?

And such new form upon thy path, such loving hand
when placed in thine,

Might they not unbeknown to thee efface the memory
of mine?

Nay, darling, look not on me thus. I'm sad to-night ;
thou must not chide,

Bear with me yet a little while, the little space I'm
by thy side.

Yes, I will smile ; reproach no more, nor speak in this
unwonted strain ;

Our last hour shall unclouded be, my trust and hope
shall wake again.

And yet one more word let me speak ; forgive it, it
shall be the last.

In happy hours, in distant lands, still think of one
page in thy past ;

For though new friends, dear, fair, and true, take place
of her who went before,

There'll ne'er be one, ne'er could be one, who trusted
and who loved thee more.

LOVE LYRICS

CRADLE SONG OF THE SUN

THE sea has stretched forth her arms to the sun,
And tenderly drawn him down to her breast ;
Haste, haste thee, she said ; leave the world behind,
For thou art come home, to me, to thy rest.

Sin, sorrow, and woe have passed 'neath thy ken,
The blind strife of man 'gainst his Maker's will,
The hand which has rained down blessings forgot,
Its chast'ning recalled with bitterness still.

But all is now past ; thy mission is done ;
Through me shall the world be hid from thy sight ;
Thou, my great Sun-god, shalt slumber in peace,
While stars, in thy stead, keep guard through the
night.

Rest, rest thee, my own ; be the world forgot,
Though trouble and toil return with the morn ;
The time that has come, where such cares are not,
Shall cause, love, all else to be lightly borne.

All that thou couldst do to brighten the gloom,
By Earth's sons to earth ever blindly drawn,
Has been nobly done, so thy guerdon won,
Rest, rest thee, my love, till the day's new dawn.

LOVE LYRICS

SUFFICIENT FOR THE DAY

UNTROUBLED by the world's harsh cry,
Let thus the unmarked days glide by ;
Lift rashly not the future's veil,
The coming hour will never fail
To raise it in its time. Till then
Cry, Peace, be still. The ills of men,
With woes commencing from their birth,
Still shrouding, clouding all the earth,
May shroud thee, too, in days to come :
Wake not for that the voice yet dumb,
Yet mute in kindly reticence,
Which hides the coming turbulence.
Much grief, wild tumult, dread, and fear
Are mortal's lot 'twixt birth and bier.
The Fates have spoken. Theirs the day ;
But be at rest while yet ye may.
Seek not to let grim echoes ring
On ether now stirred by the wing
Of peace's dove, the symbol true
Of present calm vouchsafed to you,
But clasp it closer to thy breast.
There in the distant lurid west
A wind may rise, a cloud may form,

LOVE LYRICS

And, brooding long, may grow to storm.
Help it not on by coward fear,
It would but serve to bring it near,
To sooner scorch and sear the plume
Of that fair bird. And should the gloom
With clamour close around and din,
Killing the calm concealed within,
While hopeless dark enfolds thy day,
Yet one blest thought shall cast a ray,
Which 'midst all gloom may yet be seen,
The ray which tells that Peace has been.

CON AMORE

PART I.

DEAR treasures laid within my hand, love-gifts scattered
at my feet,
Morning greetings softly whispered, low words mur-
mured when we meet.
Con amore are they offered, *con amor'* I take them, love,
Given in the golden shower of the love-light from
above.

Con amore will I follow, *con amor'* you'll lead me on,
Leaving all else far behind us, thought of others from
us gone ;

LOVE LYRICS

And the world with newer beauty shall be decked
for you and me,
Much to others that is hidden unobscured to us shall
be.

Music's echoes, living voices, teaching daily some new
thing,
Swelling loudly, falling softly, wafted by on angel's
wing,
As spent waves the cadence breaking on the sea-shore
of our heart,
Hidden in our home's dear shelter, from life's ocean
far apart.

Poet's scroll and painter's canvas bear for us a higher
thought,
Brighter fancies, richer colours, truer models for us
wrought,
For they're but the outward image of what we within
us hold,
Poems of our life unwritten, stories of our days untold.

Each day's humblest, simplest action shall bear now a
halo bright,
Each thing done shall be pervaded by an inward
loving light,

LOVE LYRICS

Shall be gilded, shall be hallowed, with a beauty not
its own,
For henceforward, all my darling does is done for me
alone.

And alone still, e'en with others, love's electric magic
thrill
Chains us two together, darling, makes for us one
life, one will,
One heart's gentle, sweet pulsation, warmed to life in
love's bright sun,
Mind, self, soul, all merged together, through Eternity
but one.

CON AMORE

PART II.

WE will see the northern mountains lift their heads to
midnight suns,
We will see old Norway's fiords into which the tor-
rent runs,
We will see her dark pine forests, cradle whence our
fathers sprung,
'Midst the sea-caves' solemn echoes, hear once more
their sagas sung.

LOVE LYRICS

Then to Rhineland's castled river, rich in Niebelungen
gold,
We will listen to its stories, graceful fancies, legends
old ;
It shall be to us a dreamland, fairy region of delight,
All our heart-joy be reflected in the old stream's
water bright.

By Helvetia's frozen rivers hear entranced the Alpine
horn,
Lingering, watch the dying sun-rays, wait their bright
return at morn,
Stand by mountain lakes together, mirrored in their
waters blue,
Each scene dearer, landscape fairer, being shared, love,
thus with you.

Glide on, then, white wings above us, by Italia's sun-
lit shore,
Whence we had our own fair motto, our own dear
words : "*Con amor*,"
We will study, then, together, the sweet love-terms of
that land,
'Twill be easy, as we con them, heart in heart, as
hand in hand.

Wafted o'er the Middle Waters of the old world's
narrow bounds,

LOVE LYRICS

Gliding past its storied islands, touch on Græcia's
 classic grounds,
People them through our keen fancy, with their hero-
 gods once more,
We supplying all links lacking in the love-tales told of
 yore.

Who knows that Palmyra's pillars may not yet before
 us rise ?
Grand old temples, dreams in marble, columns point-
 ing to the skies,
Sculptured stories, buried talents, that so few may hope
 to see.
But what, darling, in the future shall be hid from
 you and me ?

We will see the Sun-god's horses springing up from
 Egypt's sand,
Down old Nilus glide together, tread the Red Sea's
 coral strand,
Richer life and deeper feeling will 'neath those skies in
 us glow,
We will thither pass together ; darling, wait not, let
 us go.

LOVE LYRICS

VOICES IN THE SILENCE

THERE are voices in the silence,
There are faces in the void,
There are touches in the twilight,
There are strange things there deployed ;
And I see you stealing towards me
With the fateful look of yore,
And I feel that I must follow,
Where you glide there on before.

There's a vision strange above me,
Which has troubled all my peace,
And its haunting gaze is on me,
And its pleading will not cease,
And it seems to strive so wildly,
As though by some spirit bid
To impart some mournful secret,
That no longer may be hid.

There are bodings from the future,
There are mem'ries from the past,
And they bring strange dreads upon me,
Which refuse to be outcast,

LOVE LYRICS

And the veil of gold has vanished
From my radiant evening skies,
While the eerie dusk of twilight
In the sombre distance lies.

There are sweet sad eyes upon me,
Though their face I may not find,
There is sombre music near me,
There is sighing in the wind.
White hands beckon me to follow,
They refuse to let me stay,
But with force I cannot baffle
They are bearing me away.

A PREFACE TO AN UNWRITTEN BOOK

NOR mine to chaunt my country's praise,
Nor mine to hymn her gorgeous past,
Her great sons' deeds, her conquests' fame,
Her deathless records, high renown.
Mine but to strike a lower note,
And tell once more the old worn tale
That's locked away in hidden cist
When he or she goes forth from home,

LOVE LYRICS

And only brought into the light
When other eyes are sealed in sleep.

Thus I may ease some sullen pain,
And I may voice some anguished prayer
Within some heart, which else perchance
Had failed to find its balm in speech.
And I may wake some troubled thought
That as in nightmare writhed and coiled ;
And colour give to pallid days,
One moment's glow, to dull grey age ;
And call again some dear dream lost,
Or some loved tone for long time hushed.
And for one hour, while with closed lids
You con again the words I speak,
I may bring back some thought erased
From your mind's tablet long ago,
Whose absence vainly you bewailed
In whiles you sought you knew not what,
And for one hour may still the fret
Of your soul's hurt and bring you peace.

Nay, more : If haply you and you
Should light upon these few poor lines,
Each knowing each has scanned them o'er,
The thrice-blest hand mine chance may be
That takes a veil from off your eyes,
And though too late the past to mend,
May yet draw out the bitter sting

LOVE LYRICS

From some dark day, which, though long gone,
Is not and may not be forgot.

It may e'en be that mine the boon
To call within your dreamland's realm
Some dear form from the chill cold shade,
Form which, though fading with the dawn,
May yet have lent you some hours' peace,
Peace which for long you had not known.

I sing for those with faded face,
But heart still young and fresh and warm,
Who ne'er again may know man's love,
Nor hold an infant to their breast ;
For those who once were loved and prized,
But whose wan eyes and pallid lips
Tell they have someway missed the good
That God had promised long ago.

And I may sway your fancy till,
'Twixt closing of the lids and morn,
Some hand may seem within your own
To pulse and throb. A shadow's hand,
I grant, but yet, more dear, more real
Than aught the world of substance holds,
Or e'er can hold for you again.

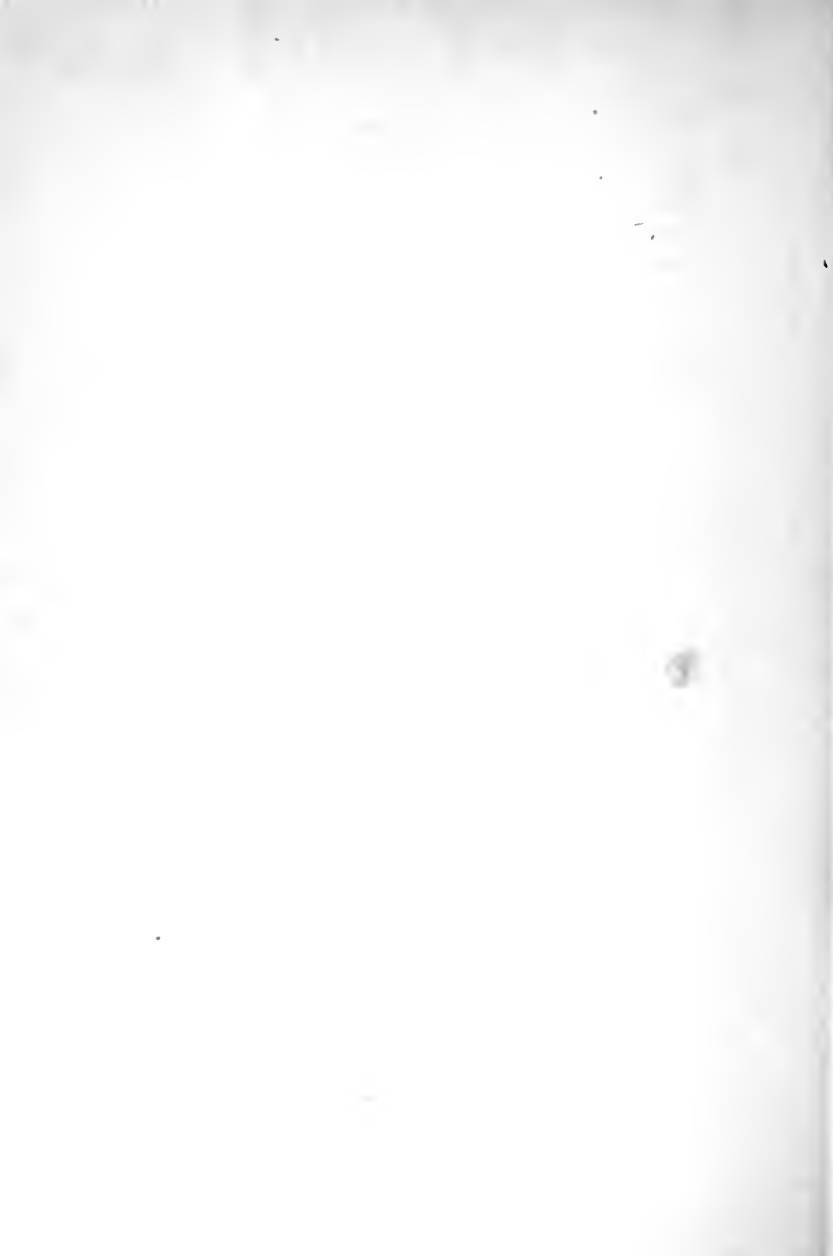
And I may lend a song such spell
That it will seem some dear dead voice
Has come to life to bid you hush
Your sob and be content to wait,

LOVE LYRICS

And for a space the hurt may staunch
In some reft heart, and leave instead
But some low sigh and dreamy thought
Of that which was, but is no more.

And when the suns of June shall shine,
For one brief hour I may recall
The day when their dear light and glow,
Though only meant for others now,
Was made for you, and you, and you . . .
God grant that I, or one more blest,
These things may haply bring to pass.

CONSTANCE SUTCLIFFE.



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